Coming Home… For Good?: Elena's Unexpected (Royal) Roommate

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by lefemmerouge2

Summary

Elena has achieved her dream to become the queen of Avalor. While she is glad that she was finally crowned and that the kingdom is at peace, all the new royal duties and tasks have tired her out. As she returns to her room, her abuelita and abuelo try to convince her to stay up and drink tea with them. They know what awaits her. She turns down their offer. When she finally makes it up the stairs to her bedroom, wanting to crash, she sees someone inside that she never expected...

Notes

Happy National Spread Joy Day! This day celebrates surprising friends and relatives "with a gift, a cup of coffee, or mail" to make each other happy. That is certainly the case with this fic.

I started this fic in early October of this year. Although this fic is not femslash, it does fall under saffic fics. Such fics focus on the "relationships between women." This includes gen stories that center on "other strong female bonds such as friendship, sister, rival and mother-daughter relationships." This fic also arguably falls into "Smarm." This is when "two or more characters are emotionally expressive, warm, and caring with each other."

There were only eleven works pairing Elena and Naomi as friends together. I used four of those as an inspiration, while others may be used as inspirations for future fics. I played around with the title and decided to go with the present one. One of my former titles was "Surprise!? I'm Your (Royal) Roommate." I decided to put that in the dialogue instead. I kind of see the friendship between Elena and Naomi to be a little like the friendship between Anne Shirley and Diana Barry. So, some of that certainly influenced this fic.

I decided to put this fic together for Flufftober 2025, to fulfill their "Make it Platonic!" challenge, particularly the Alt 8: "Moving in Together" prompt. I will publish fics for the other three prompts for this challenge ("Alt 6. First Date," "Alt 9. Planning the Perfect Proposal," and "Alt 10. And They Lived Happily Ever After") this year. My other fic for Flufftober, which I published this year, is entitled "To Be Moon Girl or Not: That is the Question". That fic is much more romantic than this one. That's because it has a romantic relationship, a female friendship, and a mother-daughter relationship.

This fic has been cross-posted on Squidge World, Quotev, and Wattpad. For Quotev and Wattpad, they are chapter-based sites, so the chapter with the text of this fic is entitled "Elena's Unexpected (Royal) Roommate."

See the end of the work for more notes

- Inspired by [Restricted Work] by Briar_theOwlEnby
- Inspired by [Restricted Work] by Briar_theOwlEnby
- Inspired by [Restricted Work] by Briar_theOwlEnby
- Inspired by [Restricted Work] by Briar_theOwlEnby
- Inspired by The Real Meaning Behind Different Types Of Kisses by Brittany Brolley for The List
- Inspired by Elena of Avalor | Ready To Rule by Official Disney Channel UK
- Inspired by Elena of Avalor | Everything's Fine by Disney (via "Elena of Avalor Songs" channel)
- Inspired by Elena of Avalor - Bright Light of the Ball (Reprise) by Disney (via "Yeosan" channel)
- Inspired by Elena of Avalor - Home for Good by Disney (via "Yeosan" channel)

It had been an exhausting day. She had gone through so much with the coronation. Her goal of being a queen had *finally* been accomplished. She didn't need the royal council anymore. However, she now had many new royal duties to complete. She almost hankered for the freedom she had when she was princess. That wasn't what she should be thinking about now, right? She should be happy for herself, right? She pushed those thoughts out of her head.

As she walked up to her bedroom, she passed her abuelita and abuelo, Luisa and Francisco. She briefly said something to them. "Good night." They looked at her strangely, aware of what awaited her upstairs, as they had helped arrange it. Luisa grabbed Elena's hand. "Are you sure you don't want some tea, mija?" She shook her head. She knew her abuelita meant well. Now wasn't the time. She needed to rest. "I'm fine. Today was *a lot*. I'm glad you were there for me...I need to hit the sack...I'm just so, so tired." Luisa looked at Francisco, unsure if she wanted to tell her or not. She decided to nothing about. "Have a good sleep, my good mija." Elena yelled, "I will!"

Beleaguered, she made her way up the stairs, taking one step at a time, so that she didn't trip. If she had, she would have embarrassed herself in front of her grandparents. She could hear something upstairs, but paid it no mind. She thought she might be hallucinating the noises. It was a possibility. When she finally made her way to her bedroom, she noticed that there was no light. This was typical. There were matches which you could use to light a candle. Before she had a chance to do that, she saw the shadow of someone light a match. The candles in the room quickly illuminated. She didn't have a chance to respond. She then saw *her*.

"Surprise, Ele! I'm your *royal* roommate!" This was something that Elena had never expected. Her heart was beating so quickly, she felt it within her chest. Sure, this wasn't a makeup disaster, but she was unaware this would happen. "Nomes?" she cried out. “What are you doing here? I thought you would be with your...uh...family in the house down by the port..."

Her friend chuckled. Her spiky blond hair shone brightly in the candle light. It almost sparkled. She was so giddy. "Well, you know, you appointed me as chancellor...and the chancellor lives in the royal palace...so..." She cleared her throat. "...and that means I can room with you. Isn't that great!" Elena sighed. She knew that Naomi would always be there to support her. Without a doubt, she loved her as much as friend could have affection for another friend. There wasn't any romantic or sexual feelings. Rather, there was a deep emotional connection. There was something *special* which had grown between them ever since she brought this girl *from the port* into her life and let her join the royal council all those years ago. She had done so on a whim, but it had been completely worth it. "Yeah it is, Nomes. I'm just…beat."

This hadn't gone the way that Naomi had hoped it would. After hearing what her friend had to say, she followed up. She'd always be there for Elena, no matter what. "Are you okay?" she asked, with a tone of concern in her voice. Elena didn't want to answer the question, but she also did not want to hide anything from her best friend. That wouldn't be right. She had to be honest with her.

"...not really, Nomes. I went through so much today and…" Her words were cut off by her sobs, her hand covering her mouth in a failed attempt to muffle the sound. Rather than moving back, Naomi came closer to her friend. She knew that her friend was usually strong and confident. But she also knew that this could be a front at times. She could hold back her emotions, which usually led to other issues. Seeing her friend in absolute tears made her sad.

"Can I give you a hug?" Naomi gently asked. As Elena continued to cry, she nodded. Holding her friend in a close embrace, she wiped away the tears. The warmth of them together, and the strength it brought her, lightened her mood. She was glad that Naomi was there. "I didn't mean to cry…" she said, softly. "You are *always* there when I need someone to cry with...I can't think of *anyone else* to be my best friend."

Naomi chirped happily. She loved when Elena talked about her in that way. "And I love you *more* than I could with any other person...as much as any friend can be close to another..." Elena smiled. "I will never forget our vow to be together with one another until the end...a vow of friendship we made all those years ago...to stay by each other's side." As her breathing began to return to a normal rate, the beating sound of her heart began to fade away. She was glad that Naomi was there. She couldn't think of anyone better to be there with her in this room and at this moment.

Elena took a deep breath. She chuckled. "Thanks for being here, Nomes. This was certainly a surprise...thanks for doing this for me. I really needed some cheering up." Her friend was glad to hear that. She would do whatever she could to support her friend. She gently pressed her cheek against her friend and playfully gave her a kiss. Elena responded in kind and did the same. They often exchanged these pleasantries with each other.

"Do you want to cuddle?" Naomi asked. She was doing her best to be there for Elena. With everything she'd been through, the least she could do was be by her side. "Yeah, okay, Nomes," she said, as she quickly blew out each candle. She landed on the bed. Her friend laid beside her on the other side. She carefully wove her fingers, one by one through her friend's blond hair.

With Naomi's arms around her, she quickly feel asleep and her friend did the same. Somehow, they both sleep soundly, together, even with the moonlight streaming into the room. Some couldn't sleep with such light, but did not bother either one of them. Neither Elena nor Naomi was embarrassed. This was just something they did as friends. They cared for one another through thick and thin. That's who they were.

In no time at all, it was the morning. The bright sunlight filtered into the room, creating a beautiful golden yellow pattern on the nearby wall. Elena yawned and reached over. Her friend wasn't there. She opened her eyes and saw her friend standing at the nearby balcony and looking across the sea. She was a girl who had traveled the world and a girl who had lived at the port after all. So her fascination was not a surprise. "Nomes, good morning," Elena said, still groggy. Her friend giggled. She handed her a mirror. Elena was still waking up and wasn't sure what her friend was getting at. "Your hair is *such a mess* this morning...can I braid it?," Naomi said. Elena nodded approvingly.

Taking one section of Elena's beautiful brown hair at a time, starting at the top, she carefully moved her fingers through the hair. She wrapped it around into beautiful braids, one part at a

time. She had learned how to do this from Elena herself some time ago, when they had hung out in the royal palace. Sometimes Elena braided Naomi's hair, but she liked to wear her hair straight more times than not, unless it was a special occasion. Naomi had become an impeccable braider, as she would describe herself. As she continued, Elena blearily opened her bedside table drawer. "Here, use this hair tie."

As they sat there for minute after minute, they spoke few words to one another. The silence continued as they enjoyed each other's company. Believing she had finished and asking her friend to look for herself, she said "You are so stunning, Ele. The best *bella donna* I know." Admiring the braiding her friend had done with her hair, she grinned back, and put the mirror in her bedside table. She knew what the words "Bella Donna" meant after an Italian delegation had come to Avalor during her time as princess. "Same to you, Nomes." Her friend was amazing, had a huge heart, and was brilliant. It seemed like she always knew what to do, and made the best of what she could.

"Let's go have some breakfast," her friend remarked. As she changed into her more casual clothes, putting away the dress she had worn to the coronation, and the dress she had slept in, her friend did the same. They held each other's hands as they left her bedroom and walked toward the kitchen. Elena felt pretty in every sense of that word and Naomi felt the same.

"This is such a nice braid...I didn't know you could do a symmetrical braid from that far-off country of *France*." Her friend laughed. "Well, I was taught by *the best*." They had a nice laugh together as they finally descended the large steps ad made their way into the kitchen. It was so early that the kitchen staff weren't up. They had the place to themselves. That made it all the better.

Pulling out a metal pan, Elena quickly made some batter and fried up some pancakes. She continued to admire her friend's work on her hair braid. A short time later, she served Naomi and herself, using some porcelain plates sitting on a shelf. They both sat down at a nice glazed wooden table, which was bathed by the outside light. Elena had incorporated anoki berries within each pancake. The berries had been picked specifically for use in the royal palace, with surplus given to the citizens. That's just the kind of ruler that Elena was. She'd also brought out some of the metal cutlery.

As she continued to chomp down, Naomi had a confession. "I didn't know you were going to name *me* as chancellor...it came as *such* a surprise." Elena wasn't sure what to say to her. Perhaps it had been unexpected for her. Was Naomi thinking that she would just get pushed aside in favor of some other royal advisor or something? She had to clear this up and quickly. "Oh, Nomes, you can say that, but you know *I care* about you. I'd never push you aside for some crusty old advisor." She then added, "you know, being my *roommate* was much more of a surprise than anything I could have imagined."

Naomi laughed. Tears streamed down her face. Elena was concerned. Was it something she said? Should she… Her thoughts were interrupted when Naomi said, "these are happy tears...I know you wouldn't do that to me." She then sheepishly admitted, "your abuelo and abuelita helped arrange this whole roommate thing...it was kinda their idea and I went along with it."

Elena chuckled heartily. Luisa and Francisco surely knew her well. She was glad to have them. Sometimes she thought about her parents who had been murdered by that wicked witch who had tyrannically ruled over Avalor. These days, she had much more positive memories than she had in the past. "Nomes, I'm so thankful you are here...you are such a strong, smart, and spunky girl." The blonde wanted to wrap her arms around Elena, without warning, and hug her tightly. Instead she only blushed, not wanting to interrupt their breakfast too much. "Thanks, Ele...I'm glad to be here." They both continued to eat their breakfast.

There was a sense of normalcy and tranquility when they were together, like they could accomplish anything if they put their minds too it. The worries of the day melted away. They began chattering away. Elena sighed. "I guess this is the *first real day* of my royal rule as queen of Avalor." She shook her head. She didn't want to think about all the things she had to do. It made her head hurt.

Her friend firmly grabbed her hand. "Don't worry, Ele. We can do it *together*." Elena felt a little bit more confident now. Naomi continued to hold her hand through the rest of their meal together, making her feel like she was almost gaining some sort of energy from her. This wasn't wrong, but it was emotional energy, rather than anything magical. After all, that magic was within her.

After Elena and Naomi washed their dishes and utensils in the sink. They put their two white porcelain dishes on the drying rack, and utensils in a box. The latter was in a device created by Elena's sister, Isa, they were ready to move on with the rest of their day. Elena firmly grabbed Naomi's hand and ran out of the kitchen, exclaiming "I'm ready to begin my *first day* of my *true* royal rule!" Her friend yelled back, "and I'll be by your side!" The day had only just begun. There would be many adventures in store for Elena, Naomi, and the Kingdom of Avalor in the days, weeks, months, and years to come.

End Notes

This fic is certainly fluff per what is stated on Fanlore which defines fluff as a "pleasant, feel-good work...the opposite of angst." In such fics, "the focus is not sex" but instead center on "displays of affection between two or more characters, whether their relationship is romantic or not." Fanlore goes on to say that a "fluff story may be gen and focused on family...interactions. It may also indicate a mood piece with warm, uplifting descriptions." The page also notes "the adjective, Fluffy, which can be used to modify another genre to indicate a sweet and happy story."

Not really an inspiration, but I liked this fic "Feliz Navidad, Isa". Also, I thought the article "'Abuela' or 'Abuelita': What Spanish-speakers Really Say!" on Spanish Unraveled was interesting. I found it when searching the word "abelita" in a search engine.

Notably, the Brittany Brolley article I cited in the inspirations section says this about platonic kisses: "we are all quite familiar with the familial platonic kiss on the cheek. You know, the kind your mom plants on the side of your face, leaving behind a smudge of lipstick, or the one with which you greet your loving grandmother. Obviously, there's no romantic element behind these sorts of smooches...platonic kisses can also find their way into romantic relationships...Finch recommends spicing up your goodbye routines to avoid getting into a habit of solely exchanging pecks on the cheek." So pecks on the cheek are platonic, usually, and they are as such in this fic. You could also argue that Elena and Naomi have a romantic friendship here. That means a close friendship which resembles "a romantic one." In such a friendship, these friends are "affectionate and attentive to one another and much rather spend time with each other than others." The friendship between Elena and Naomi is not a sexual relationship nor is it akin to a romantic one which would have them dating one another.

Otherwise, if I ever write a fic about Naomi and sailing, the song "Chasing Down the Wind" will likely be an inspiration. The same may be the case for the other five fics of note which include a friendship between Elena and Naomi. They include "Reinado," "Of Chancellors and Shifting Sheets," "Friends Don't," "A Fragile Line," and "Śmigus dyngus." For context, I have written only *one* fic before, which mentioned Naomi sailing. I am referring to chapter 1 of "Sky Pirates and the Queendom of Avalor," entitled "Act I. Naomi's sailing expedition". That fic had Naomi and Elena in a romantic relationship.

Update #1: After reading about it online, I am wholly convinced that Elena and Naomi have a womance in canon and in this fic. Wiktionary calls it a "close but nonsexual relationship between women" while postings on the womance subreddit talk about it as a tight-knit bond, deep and meaningful connections, Candace Osmond of Grammarist says it is the female equivalent of bromance, with close friendship, camaraderie, solidarity, female bonding, and/or sisterhood, as a "deep bond between two women...[with] some other more common terms [as]...bestie, BFF, [and] soul sister." Over nine years ago, Collins Dictionary said something similar, calling it a "close but non-sexual relationship between two women" while adding it not likely to catch on because women have "always been free to have friendships as close as they'd like without anyone getting twitchy about implications or definitions." Also, unlike what some have said about womance, I'm convinced that Naomi and Elena are queer through and through.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!